

Message Text

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TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PBOR, UNSC, WA, SF

SUBJECT:AMBASSADOR SOLE'S LETTER TO EDITOR ON WALVIS BAY

1. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR OF AUGUST 29 CARRIES LETTER
TO EDITOR FROM SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR DONALD B. SOLE
ON STATUS OF WALVIS BAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE WESTERN
PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

I AM COMPELLED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH AN ARTICLE ENTITLED
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"UN PLAN COULD OPEN DOOR FOR NAMIBIA ACCORD." (IT CITED
"RELIABLE REPORTS" THAT) SOUTH AFRICA KNEW "ABOUT THE
WALVIS BAY ISSUE AS LONG AGO AS JUNE" AND THAT OUR REACTION
WAS "PRIMARILY FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION."

BOTH THESE STATEMENTS ARE TOTALLY ERRONEOUS. OUR UNDER-
STANDING OF THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE WAS BASED ON DISCUSSIONS

WHICH WE HAD HELD WITH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS OVER A PERIOD OF 15 MONTHS. OUR ATTITUDE WAS UNAMBIGUOUS: WALVIS BAY IS HISTORICALLY AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF SOUTH AFRICA. DURING THAT TIME WE LEFT THE FIVE IN NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ISSUE INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT PROPOSAL

ON THE FUTURE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA COULD LEAD TO THE IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THE FIVE GAVE US THE CATEGORIC ASSURANCE THAT THAT WAS NOT THEIR INTENTION. THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ISSUE WAS:

FIRSTLY, THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL AND, SECONDLY, THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN AN INDEPENDENT SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ANY MISUNDERSTANDING.

IT WAS A CLEAR-CUT CASE. ONLY AFTER THE APPARENT ACCEPTANCE BY SWAPO OF THE WEST'S PROPOSAL IN LUANDA ON JULY 14 DID MY GOVERNMENT LEARN OF THE WEST'S INTENTION TO SUPPORT A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON WALVIS BAY. THIS SHOCKED MY GOVERNMENT. SOUTH UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICA HAD BEEN LET DOWN BADLY. THE WESTERN FIVE HAD GONE BACK ON THEIR WORD. FURTHERMORE, WE WERE INFORMED OF THE CONTENTS OF THE RESOLUTION ON WALVIS BAY ONLY FIVE DAYS BEFORE IT WAS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE WEST IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

CAN SOUTH AFRICA BE BLAMED FOR RESENTING THIS BEHAVIOR OF THE WEST AND FOR SUSPECTING THAT THE RESOLUTION ON WALVIS BAY WAS THE PRICE WHICH SWAPO HAD EXACTED FROM THE WEST IN RETURN FOR ITS AGREEMENT TO PROCEED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

THUS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THE "WALVIS BAY ISSUE" WAS MADE AN ADJUNCT OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, CONTRARY TO THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WEST WHICH WAS THE BASIS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL ON APRIL 25, 1978. WE ARE ACCORDINGLY QUITE JUSTIFIED IN FLATLY REJECTING THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION. WE DO NOT SIMPLY HAVE "RESERVATIONS" ABOUT IT, AS REPORTED BY YOUR CORRESPONDENT. WE CONSIDER IT TO BE DEVOID OF ANY LEGAL OR FACTUAL BASIS. WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH ANYBODY ON THE

BASIS OF THAT RESOLUTION.

ANYONE WHO SUPPOSES THAT OUR STAND ON WALVIS BAY IS FOR "INTERNAL CONSUMPTION" IS SERIOUSLY MISTAKEN. ON THE CONTRARY, OUR REACTION TO THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY TWO PRIME CONSIDERATIONS:

FIRST, THAT WALVIS BAY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOUTH AFRICA'S SOVEREIGN TERRITORY AND SECONDLY, THAT THE BEHAVIOR OF VARIOUS PARTIES ON THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY HAS RAISED GRAVE DOUBTS CONCERNING THE GOOD FAITH WITH WHICH THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

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ACCORDINGLY, A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY NOW RESTS ON THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO REASSURE US THAT THERE WILL BE NO DEVIATION FROM THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH ON APRIL 25, 1978.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS COMMUNICATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS MADE IT PLAIN THAT ONLY AFTER RECEIPT OF HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. AHTISAARI'S, REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO THE TERRITORY, WILL IT DECIDE WHETHER HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INDEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSAL WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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